

Chair's Note
Meeting of the National Screening Advisory Committee (NSAC)
08 December 2023

The National Screening Advisory Committee held its fourth and final meeting of 2023 on Friday, 8 December.

NSAC Work Processes

The Expression of Interest process to appoint new members to the Committee has now closed. It is aimed to have the vacancies filled in advance of the first NSAC meeting in 2024.

The Committee's Call for Submissions for proposals for new or changes to existing screening programmes was launched on 16 December and will remain open until 1 March 2024. I look forward to the submission of any proposals and ideas.

Meeting dates for 2024 are agreed as follows:

- Friday 1 March 2024
- Friday 28 June 2024
- Friday, 18 October 2024

The HIQA NSAC HTA team provided an update on their work programme for 2024 onwards and progress to date. Work has commenced on Health Technology Assessment to evaluate an age extension in the BowelScreen programme and to evaluate evidence for a population-based screening programme Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm. Further progress reports will be provided throughout 2024.

Work also continued on revising the Terms of Reference and Standing Orders of the Committee. The review process is at an advanced stage and is expected to be concluded in early 2024.

Developmental dysplasia of the hip (DDH) in infants

HIQA updated the Committee on HIQA's evidence review of universal ultrasound screening for developmental dysplasia of the hip (DDH) in infants. Given the challenges around the availability of Irish data, lack of internationally accepted guidelines for the treatment of DDH and an absence of high-quality comparative studies, the Committee decided that there is currently not a sufficient level of evidence available to support a recommendation to the Minister for Health on a population-based ultrasound screening programme for DDH.

The Secretariat to the Committee have agreed to undertake a fact-finding mission to obtain additional practical information on the condition. This will help to inform the further discussions on the topic at the next meeting for the Committee.

Updated European Council Recommendation on cancer screening

The Committee agreed for a cancer screening subgroup to be established to advise Committee to assist with the implementation of the updated European Council Recommendation on cancer screening in Ireland. This subgroup is to be set up later in 2024.



National Screening Advisory Committee

Next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for Friday, 1 March 2024.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'SUZANNE CROWE' in all capital letters.

Dr Suzanne Crowe
Chair, National Screening Advisory Committee